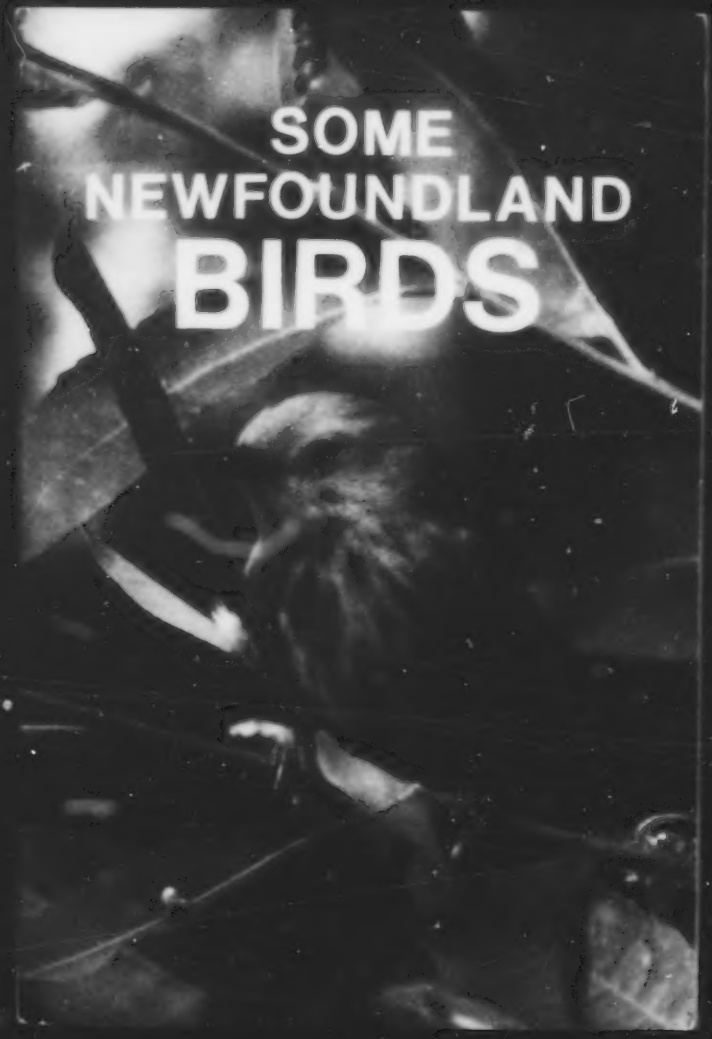
SOME
NEWFOUNDLAND
BIRDS

PARK INTERPRETATION

The aim of park interpretation is to assist the visitor in developing a keener awareness, appreciation, and understanding of the area he or she visits. This is accomplished by various means including interpretive signs and exhibits, amphitheatre programs, trails, naturalist programs, and publications. In the latter category Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Parks has published a number of pamphlets and books on various topics such as birds, butterflies, flowers, shrubs, stars, archeology, history, geology and many others. These publications are designed to educate park users in the natural and cultural values of the environment of which we all are a part.

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Some Newfoundland Birds

by
A. GLEN RYAN

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INTRODUCTION

Of all the wild animals that enliven our outdoors none are more admired than the birds. More than 8600 bird species are found throughout the world and about 520 species are in Canada. Almost 300 species have been recorded in insular Newfoundland. About half of these nest here, the others are migrants or visitors to our province. This book will serve to introduce 65 common birds of our forests, woodlands, barrens, bogs, lakes, ponds, and streams. A few coastal species are included, too.

The birds are presented in the standard sequence used by ornithologists, beginning with the most primitive species (Loon) and working up to the more specialized species (Sparrows). A few non-related but similar species have been placed together for easy comparison. The common and scientific names are those adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union. Where names have been recently changed the old names are noted as well. The 'field marks' of each bird, its habitat, nest, and eggs are described. The accompanying illustrations complement the text. Measurements are given in both centimeters and meters, and inches and feet.

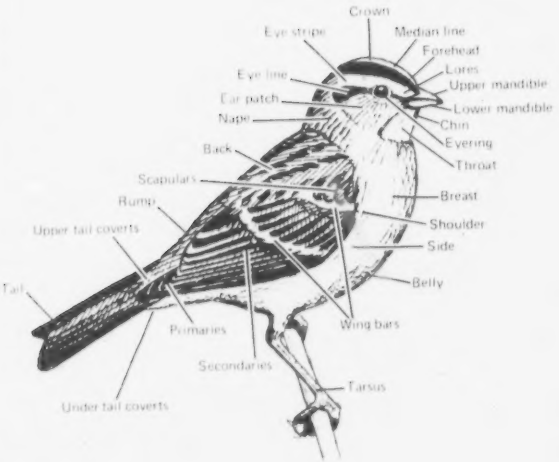
Bird-watching, or birding, is a fascinating hobby, now enjoyed by over two million people in North America. It can start in the backyard and extend to

neighbouring fields and woodlands. Very little equipment is needed to watch birds. A pair of 7 x 35 binoculars will help bring distant birds seven times nearer and make distinguishing marks seven times more obvious. When watching a bird one should note its obvious characteristics — its shape, size, color, action and flight pattern. The shape and length of the tail, wings and bill are also helpful. The ability to recognize birds improves with practice and experience.

Several of our Provincial Parks are good spots for bird-watching—LaManche on the Avalon Peninsula, Frenchman's Cove on the Burin Peninsula, Piccadilly Head on the Port-au-Port Peninsula, Barachois near Stephenville, and Mummichog near Port-aux-Basques. Most of these have hiking trails, and Barachois offers naturalist-guided tours in the summer.

It is hoped that this book will inspire others to take up bird-watching and bird study. It is a hobby, or profession that will continue to give many pleasurable hours and certainly has no limits. Ornithology is one field where the amateur can contribute to scientific knowledge. There are still many things that are unknown about some of our birds, such as their behaviour, nesting and feeding habits, migratory patterns; hence, any observations may be of interest.

Birds, and other wildlife are protected in Newfoundland's Provincial parks. Most birds are also protected by law throughout the province. The nest, eggs, and young of birds should not be molested either. All are part of our natural heritage and should be left for others to enjoy.



TOPOGRAPHY OF A BIRD

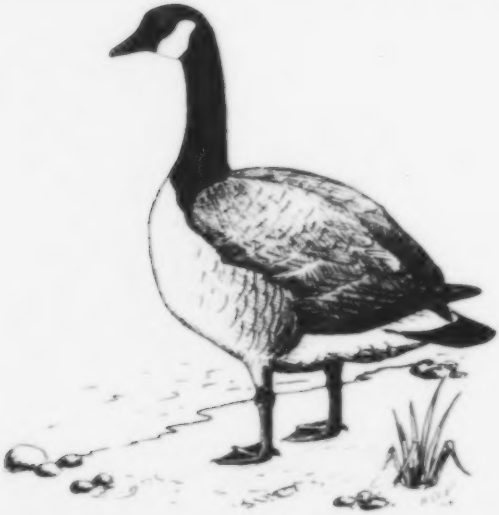
When describing a bird it is useful to know the correct terminology. This aids in making comparisons and checking the patterns in a field guide. The white-throated sparrow above illustrates most of the terms generally used.

COMMON LOON, *Gavia immer*

A large bird about the size of a small goose, with a long body, short tail, thick neck and strong and straight bill. Sexes are alike. Summer plumage: head and neck glossy black with an incomplete white collar and a white bar across the throat. Back is boldly checkered black and white. Belly is white. Winter plumage: dull gray above. Throat, cheeks and underparts are white. Flies with neck downwards, giving it a hump-backed appearance. Length: 70.0 - 90.0 cm. (28.0 - 36.0 in.). Found on freshwater ponds and lakes in summer, but mainly around the coast in winter. Nest: a mass of decaying vegetation near the water's edge. Eggs: usually 2, olive-green to brownish, with blackish spots.

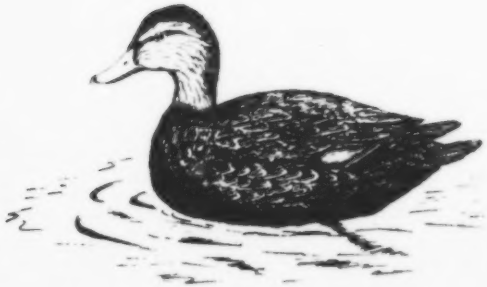
AMERICAN BITTERN, *Botaurus lentiginosus*

A stocky brown bird with short legs and tail. Marked with various shades of brown and buff above; whitish with brown streaks beneath. Black stripe along side of the neck and buff line over the eye. Note the blackish wing tips in flight. Stands motionless in marsh with bill pointing skyward. Length: 55.0 - 85.0 cm. (23.0 - 34.0 in.). Very secretive. Found in wet, marshy areas. Nest: on the ground, a mass of reeds and other vegetation. Eggs: 4-6, buff.



CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis*

A large plump bird with long neck and short legs. Brown above, lighter on the chest, brownish-gray below and white around the base of the tail. Head and neck are black with a conspicuous white cheek patch. Bill and legs are black. Often flies in V-formation. Noisy in flight. Length: 90.0 - 110.0 cm. (35.0 - 43.0 in.). Found on lakes and ponds and occasionally on salt water. Nest: usually on the ground near water, a mass of vegetation lined with down. Eggs: 4-6, whitish.



BLACK DUCK, *Anas rubripes*

This and the next species are surface-feeding ducks that dabble and tip in shallow water. When rising from the water they spring directly into the air.

The Black Duck is dusky brown, lighter on the head. In flight, the white wing linings contrast with the dark body. Wing patch is purple with a trace of white border on either side. Sexes are alike. Length: 40.0 cm. (16.0 in.). Our most common freshwater duck. Nest: usually on the ground near water, made of grass and lined with down. Eggs: 6-8, pale buff.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL, *Anas crecca*

Sexes are different. Male is brownish-gray, has a glossy green patch on side of chestnut brown head, white vertical crescent in front of wing, and a bright green wing patch. Female is dark-brown and speckled and has a green wing patch. In flight, the belly looks light. Length: 26.0 cm. (10.5 in.). Nest: on the ground, made of grasses, lined with down. Eggs: 10-12, pale buff.

The Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*, has a white crescent in front of the eye and a blue patch on its fore wing.

BALD EAGLE, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Unmistakable in adult plumage: white head and white tail on blackish-brown body. Bill and feet are yellow. Immatures have dusky head and tail, a dark bill, and whitish wing-linings (often white patches elsewhere). Soars on flattened wings. Wingspan: 2 - 2.5 metres (6.5 - 8 feet). Most common along the coast. Nest: bulky platform of sticks on a cliff. Eggs: usually 2, dull white.

)SPREY, *Pandion haliaetus*

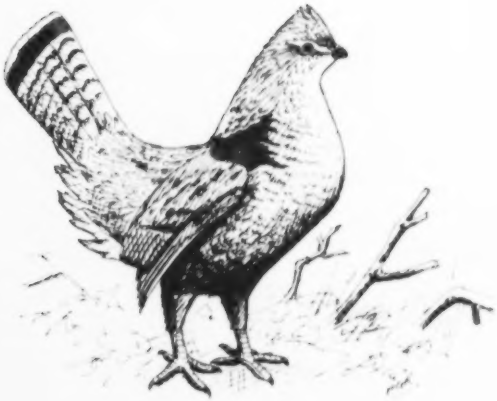
The only large hawk that is dark above and white below. Head is largely white, with a black patch through the cheeks. Wing undersurface is whitish, with dark "wrist" mark. Conspicuous crook in wings; soars with wings in arched position. Flaps more than it sails. Wingspan: 1.4 - 1.8 metres (4.5 - 6 feet). Plunges feet first into water after fish. Found mostly in coastal areas, especially around estuaries. Nest: bulky mass of sticks in the top of a tree. Eggs: 2-4, buffy white, blotched.

MERLIN, (Pigeon Hawk) *Falco columbarius*

A small falcon, with long pointed wings and longish tail. Male is bluish-gray above, and whitish beneath streaked with brown. Tail has alternating white and dark bands. Female and immatures are dusky brown boldly streaked below and have banded tails. Wingspan: 61 cm. (2 feet). Wingbeats are fast. Found in forests and open woods. Our most common falcon. Nest: in a tree or on the ground, often the abandoned one of another species such as the Crow. Eggs: 4-5, creamy white with rusty blotches.

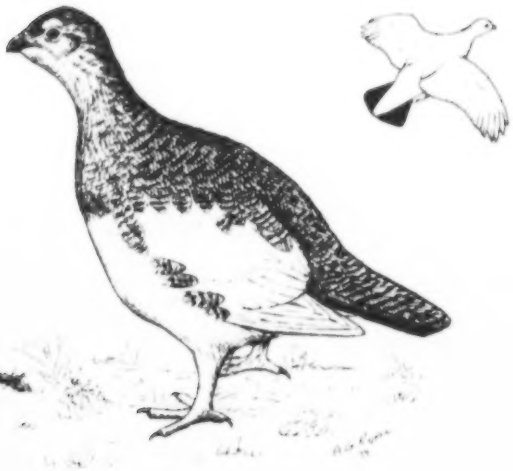
GREAT HORNED OWL, *Bubo virginianus*

A large owl, twice the size of a crow. Mottled in various shades of browns, grays and black above; below buff marked with black horizontal bars. Brownish-gray facial disk, yellow eyes, and conspicuous white throat and ear tufts or "horns". In flight, looks dark, neckless, and big-headed with long broad wings. Length: 50.0 cm. (20.0 in.). Wingspan: 1.0 - 1.4 metres (3.0 - 4.5 feet). Prefers heavily wooded areas. Nest: usually in that of an old nest of a crow or hawk. Eggs: 2-3, dull white.



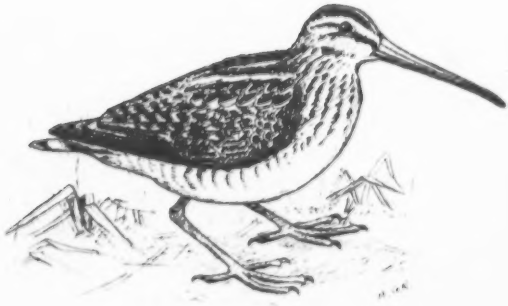
RUFFED GROUSE, *Bonasa umbellus*

A chicken-like grouse, with a fan-shaped tail that has a broad black band near its tip. Mottled and barred in various shades of grayish-brown. Black ruff around the neck. Female is smaller than the male and has shorter ruffs and tail and an incomplete tail band. Springs from the ground with a whirring rapid flight. Length: 40.5 - 49.0 cm. (16.0 - 19.0 in.). Found in woodlands. First introduced to Newfoundland in 1956. Nest: a shallow depression in the ground lined with leaves and feathers. Eggs: 7-14, buff.



WILLOW PTARMIGAN, *Lagopus lagopus*

The familiar "partridge" of Newfoundland heathlands. A small grouse, brown with white wings in the summer, changing to white with a black tail in the winter. Male in summer is rusty brown and has a bright red "comb" over eye; female is tawny brown and has a light red "comb". Length: 35.0 - 45.0 cm. (15.0 - 17.0 in.). Nest: on the ground, a depression lined with grasses or leaves. Eggs: 7-10, creamy, blotched with brown.



COMMON SNIPE, *Capella gallinago*

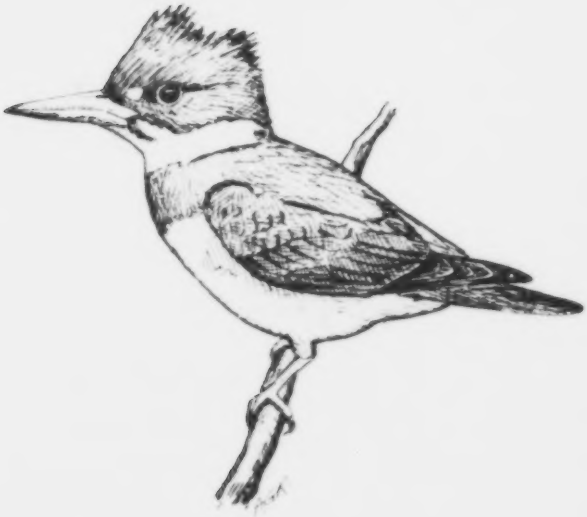
A brown, chunky, long-billed member of the Sandpiper family. Mottled brown and striped with buff above, whitish below. Breast is buff, streaked with blackish. Head is boldly striped. In flight note pointed wings and short orange tail. Flies zig zag when flushed. Produces bleating sound, by using outer tail feathers, in breeding season. Length: 25.0 - 28.0 cm. (10.0 - 11.0 in.). Common in fens and other wet areas. Nest: on the ground, a grass-lined depression. Eggs: 4, greenish-buff to olive-brown, heavily spotted with dark browns.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER, *Actitis macularia*

A small sandpiper that constantly bobs its tail up and down. Summer plumage: brownish-gray above; white, marked with dark, round spots below. Light stripe over eye. Winter plumage: Breast is white, but white line over eye and a dusky smudge on the side of the breast help distinguish it. In all plumages, shows a white wing stripe in flight. Flies with shallow rigid beats on downward-tilted wings. Length: 18.0 - 20.0 cm. (7.0 - 8.0 in.). Found along brooks, ponds and seacoast. Nest: hollow in the ground, lined with grass and dry leaves. Eggs: 4, buff, spotted with dark brown.

HERRING GULL, *Larus argentatus*

The most common gull. Back and upper surface of wings are pale bluish-gray. Head, neck, tail and underparts are white. The tips of the outermost flight feathers are black with a white spot. Bill is yellow with a red spot on the lower tip and the legs are flesh-colored. First year birds are mottled brown with a dark bill and eyes. Second year birds are paler brown mixed with white. Length: 58.0 - 66.0 cm. (23.0 - 26.0 in.). Found around the coast and on inland lakes and ponds. Nest: depression on the ground, lined with grass, moss, seaweed, etc. Egg: 2 or 3, bluish-gray to brownish, spotted with dark brown.



BELTED KINGFISHER, *Megaceryle alcyon*

Unmistakable with its large head, ragged crest, heron-like bill, short tail and small feet. Bluish-gray above and white beneath. White collar around neck and a bluish-gray band across the breast. The female has an additional rusty breast-band. Call is a loud rattle. Dives headlong into water for fish. Length: 28.0 - 35.0 cm. (11.0 - 14.0 in.). Found along margins of brooks, lakes and other water. Nest: a burrow excavated in a steep clay bank. Eggs: 5-8, white.

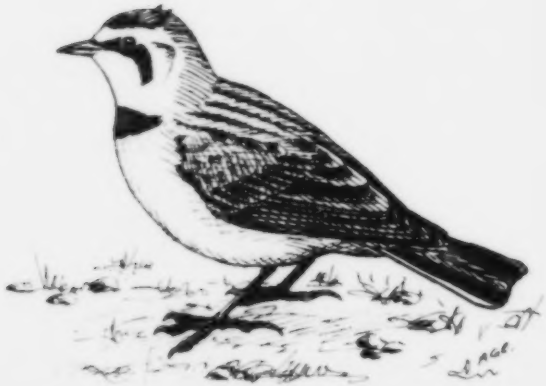
COMMON FLICKER, *Colaptes auratus*

Woodpeckers have a strong, chisel-shaped bill, stiff tail feathers and undulating flight. The stiff tail is used as a prop for climbing trees.

The Flicker has a brown back, black tail and a conspicuous white rump. Light fawn, boldly marked with round black spots beneath, and a black crescent across the breast. Crown is gray with a red crescent on the back of the head. Cheeks are brown and the male has a black "mustache". Wings and tail beneath are golden yellow. Length: 27.0 cm. (10.5 in.). Found in wooded areas. Formerly called the Yellow-shafted Flicker. Nest: a cavity in a tree. Eggs: 6-9, glossy white.

HAIRY WOODPECKER, *Dendrocopos villosus* and **DOWNY WOODPECKER,** *Dendrocopos pubescens*

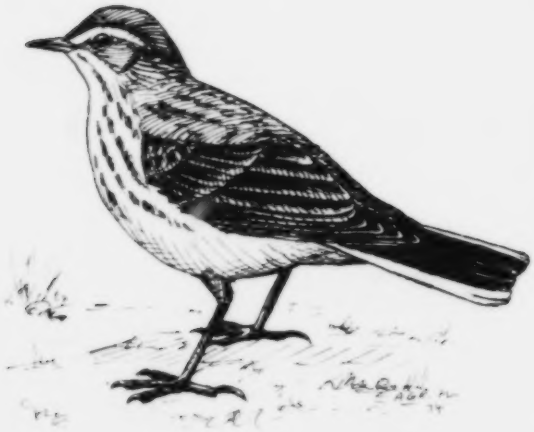
These two species are easily confused. Both are black with a broad white stripe down the back, and white below. Wings are black, speckled with white; and tail has white outer feathers. Crown of head is black and males have a red patch on back of the head. Hairy Woodpecker is larger: 23.0 - 28.0 cm. (9.0 - 11.0 in.); and has a long bill, almost as long as its head. Downy Woodpecker is small: 15.0 - 18.0 cm. (6.0 - 7.0 in.); and has a short, slender bill. Nest: a cavity in a tree. Eggs: 3-5, white. The Hairy Woodpecker is shown above



HORNED LARK, *Eremophila alpestris*

This and the next species are ground-feeding birds that usually walk and run instead of hop.

Mostly brown above and grayish-white below. Face is yellow and throat is light yellow. Black patches on sides of the face and on the breast. Two small black horns on the head are not always seen. Outer tail-feathers are white. Flight is undulating; folds wings after each beat. Female and immatures are duller than the male. Length: 16.0 cm. (6.5 in.). Found in open areas — barrens, headlands, shores. Nest: a grass cup on the ground, lined with down or feathers. Eggs: 3-5, gray speckled with brown.



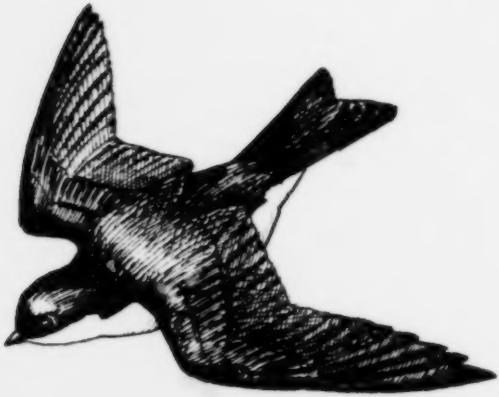
WATER PIPIT, *Anthus spinoletta*

Grayish-brown above, buff and streaked below. Light stripe through eye. Dark tail has white outer feathers. Bill is slender. Almost constantly bobs tail. Dips up and down in flight. Length: 14.0 cm. (5.5 in.). Found in open areas — barrens and shores. Nest: on the ground under a rock or hummock, made of grasses and twigs. Eggs: 4-7, grayish, spotted with brown.

Both the Horned Lark and Water Pipit are well-camouflaged against their ground habitat.

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER,
Empidonax flaviventris

A small short-tailed flycatcher. Olive-green above; uniform yellow from throat to belly. Tail and wings are dark brown. Two yellowish-white wing bars. Bill black above, yellow below. Conspicuous yellow eye-ring. Has habit of flipping tail up and down with rapid jerky motion. Length: 12.0 cm. (5 in.). Found at the edge of forests. Nest: on the ground among moss or tree roots, built of rootlets, grass and moss. Eggs: 3-5, creamy-white, spotted with brown.



TREE SWALLOW, *Iridoprocne bicolor*

Swallows have slim wings, notched tails and elegant flight. Often perch upright on wires.

The Tree Swallow is steely blue-black or green-black above, and pure white below. Female is often dull olive-brown above. Immatures are dusky brown above. Glides in circles. Length: 12.0 cm. (5.0 in.). Found in open areas, usually around shallow ponds. Nest: a cavity in a tree or a bird box. Eggs: 4-6, white.

Bank Swallow, *Riparia riparia* is brown above but has a narrow breast band. Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* is blue-black above and rusty beneath.

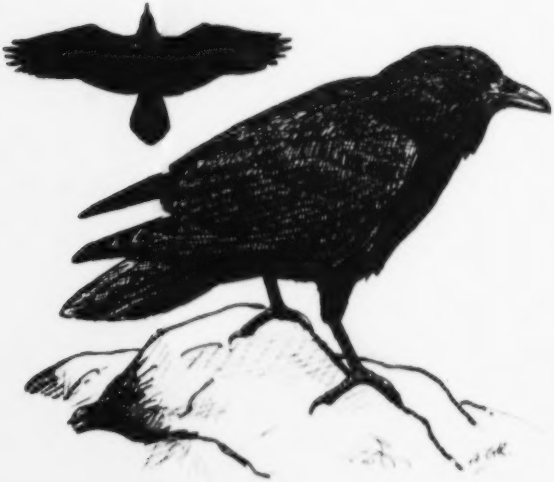
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus satrapa*

Kinglets are tiny, plump, olive-gray birds with a tiny bill and short tail. The dark wings have two whitish wing bars. Very active; nervously twitch wings. Length: 10.0 cm. (4.0 in.). Found in evergreen woodlands.

The Golden-crowned Kinglet is easily identified by its conspicuous crown-patch. Male has the centre of the crown orange with a outer yellow border which is bordered by black. Female is similar but the center of the crown is all yellow.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, *Regulus calendula*

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet lacks conspicuous crown patches. Male, however, has a scarlet crown patch, most conspicuous when excited. The broken eye-ring gives it a large-eyed appearance. A dark bar bordering the rear white wing bar will distinguish it from any warbler. Nest (of both Kinglets): usually well up in a coniferous tree; a globular mass of mosses, lichens, bark and rootlets and lined with feathers. Eggs: 5-10, whitish with pale brown spots.



COMMON RAVEN, *Corvus corax*

A large, black bird similar to the next species but differing as follows: considerably larger than Crow, has wedge-shaped tail, shaggy throat feathers and heavy bill. Flies hawk-like; flaps and soars on horizontal wings. Takes two or three hops before becoming airborne. Voice is a croak. Length: 53.0 cm. (21.0 in.). Prefers coastal areas. Nest: a mass of sticks on a cliff. Eggs: 3-4, greenish, spotted with brown.

COMMON CROW, *Corvus brachyrhynchos*

Like the Raven, but smaller. Glossy black. Tail is more square-tipped, bill is smaller in proportion to the head and it flies with the wings bent upwards. When taking flight it jumps directly into the air. Length: 43.0 cm. (17.0 in). Voice is a caw. Found in various habitats. Nest: in a tree, a mass of sticks lined with soft material. Eggs: 4-5, greenish, spotted with browns.

GRAY JAY, *Perisoreus canadensis*

A fluffy gray bird, with white forehead, throat and face, and a black patch across the back of the head. Tail is slightly tipped with white. Juveniles are entirely dark gray. Bold and tame around campsites. Length: 25.0 cm. (10.0 in.). Prefers heavily wooded areas. Nest: usually in a conifer; made of twigs, leaves and grass, and lined with hair or feathers. Eggs: 3-4, greyish, spotted with buff.

Blue Jay, *Cyanocitta cristata*, is our only bright blue bird. It has a crest and a black band extending across neck and up to crest. Whitish beneath. Prefers deciduous forests.

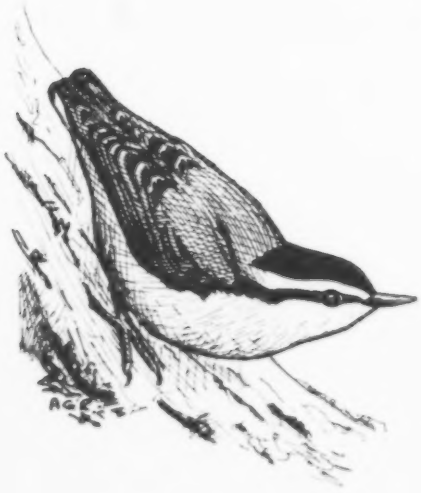
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE, *Parus atricapillus*
and **BOREAL CHICKADEE,** *Parus hudsonicus*

Chickadees are small, plump, gray birds, with long, slender tails and small bills. Acrobatic, frequently hanging upside down from slender branches. Length: 12.0 cm. (4.5 in.). Tame.

Black-capped Chickadee has a black cap and bib, white cheeks, whitish underparts, and buff sides.

Boreal Chickadee has a dull brown cap, black bib, whitish underparts and rich brown sides.

Both are common in various habitats. Nest: in a cavity of a tree, usually low, of soft materials. Eggs: 5-8, white, spotted with reddish-brown.

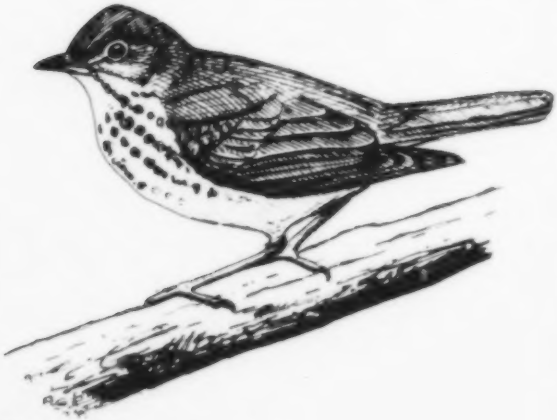


RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH, *Sitta canadensis*

A small, large-headed, short-tailed and long-billed tree climber. Often climbs down the tree, headfirst, as it does up. Bluish-gray above, buff to rusty beneath. Broad black line through the eye and white line above it. Female is similar but colors are duller. Voice is a nasal yank-yank. Length: 10.0 cm. (4.0 in.). Found in coniferous woods. Nest: a cavity in a tree; made of bark, grasses and rootlets, and often lined with hair. Eggs: 4-7, white spotted with reddish browns.

AMERICAN ROBIN, *Turdus migratorius*

One of our most familiar birds. Black above and brick-red beneath. Throat is white striped with black, and bill is yellow. White eye-ring. Female is lighter. Young Robins have a spotted breast and streaked back. Length: 21.0 cm. (8.5 in.). Common in various habitats. Nest: usually in a tree or bush; built of twigs and grass with the base and walls of mud and lined with fine grasses. Eggs: 3, plain blue.



THRUSHES, *Catharus spp.*

There are four "look-alike" Thrushes in Newfoundland. All are brown-backed, have spotted breasts, large eyes, slender bill and long legs. Length: 15.0 - 17.0 cm. (6.0 - 7.0 in.). Hermit Thrush, *C. guttatus*, has a rusty tail and olive-brown back. Swainson's Thrush, *C. ustalatus* is uniformly gray-brown above and has a buff face and eye-ring. Gray-cheeked Thrush, *C. minimus* is gray-brown above but has a gray face and no distinct eye-ring. Veery, *C. fuscencens* is entirely rusty above and has faint breast spots.

All are found in wooded areas. Nest: on the ground or in bush or tree, made of twigs, bark, rootlets and moss, and lined with rootlets. Eggs: 3-4, greenish-blue, marked with spots in the Swainson's and Gray-cheeked.

STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris*

A short-tailed, chunky "blackbird". Spring plumage: glossed with purple and green; bill yellow. Winter plumage: heavily spotted with white; bill blackish. Young birds are dusky-gray. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). Feeds mostly on the ground. Large groups perch on wires in winter. Introduced from Europe. First recorded in Newfoundland in 1946. Nest: cavity in a tree, a bird house, or in woodpecker holes, etc. Eggs: 4-5, pale blue.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD, *Euphagus carolinus*

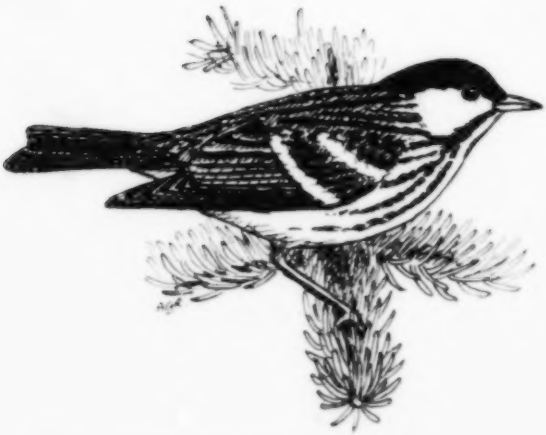
A black bird with average length tail. Starling has short tail. Male is black with a greenish or bluish sheen, and yellow-white eyes. Female is more slate-colored. In winter, adults and young are rusty-tinged and marked with bars beneath. Length: 20.0 cm. (8.0 in.). Found around ponds and fens. Nest: in a tree near freshwater, made of grass and moss, and lined with fine grasses. Eggs: 4-5, pale bluish-green, spotted and blotched with browns and grays.

AMERICAN REDSTART, *Setophaga ruticilla*

An active, fly-catching warbler. Male is black with a white belly and has bright orange patches in wings, tail, and on sides of breast. Female is olive-brown above and has yellow patches. Immature male is similar to female but the yellow is tinged with orange. Constantly flits and droops wings and spreads tail. Length: 11.0 - 13.0 cm. (4.5 - 5.5 in.). Prefers wet areas, particularly deciduous woods along streams. Nest: in the upright crotch of a tree, cup-shaped, made of grasses, plant down and bark, lined with hair. Eggs: usually 4, white spotted with browns.

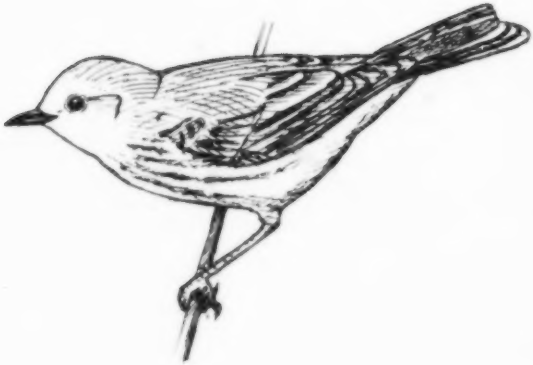
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER, *Mniotilta varia*

Only this warbler and the Blackpoll Warbler are black and white. Crown, back and breast are striped. Male has a black cheek patch. Female and immatures are paler, mostly white beneath. Habitually creeps along trunks and branches. Length: 11.0 - 13.0 cm. (4.5 - 5.5 in.). Found in woodlands. Nest: on the ground at the base of a tree or stump, or among the roots of overturned trees, made of bark, leaves, moss and rootlets, and lined with hair. Eggs: 4-5, white, speckled with reddish browns.



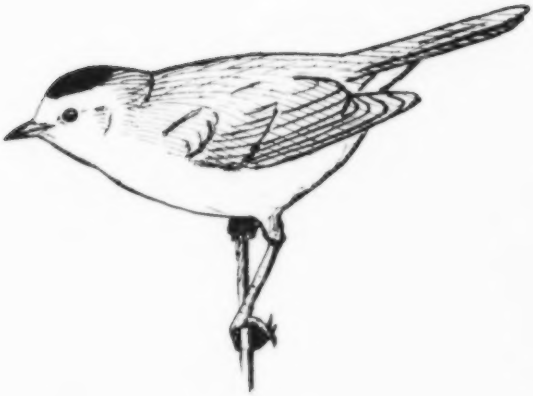
BLACKPOLL WARBLER, *Dendroica striata*

Male has a distinct black crown, white cheeks and throat. Gray streaked with black above, white with black streaks below. White wing-bars. Female is greenish-gray streaked with black above, whitish to pale yellowish with streaks below. White wing-bars, pale yellow legs and white spots in tail beneath. Fall plumage is greenish-yellow. Voice is a thin zi-zi-zi-zi-zi. Length: 12.0 - 14.0 cm. (5.0 - 5.75 in.). Our most common warbler. Found in various habitats — coniferous forests, mixed woods. Nest: usually low in a spruce, made of grasses, lichens, mosses and twigs, and lined with feathers, hairs and fine grasses. Eggs: 4-5, white, speckled with browns and grays.



YELLOW WARBLER, *Dendroica petechia*

Appears all-yellow. Male has rusty streaks on the breast. Female is paler and usually lacks streaks. Immatures are dusky-yellow and have faint yellow wing bars. Yellow tail patches in all plumages. Length: 12.0 - 13.0 cm. (4.7 - 5.2 in.). Common in deciduous thickets, low shrubbery and river valleys. Often called "yellow-hammer". Female Wilson's Warbler is similar but lacks tail spots. Nest: in a shrub or tree, cup shaped, made of grasses, bark, plant fibres, etc., and lined with fine grasses and hairs. Eggs: 4-5, white, spotted with browns and grays.

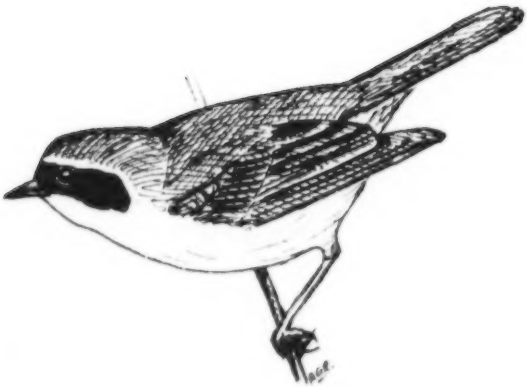


WILSON'S WARBLER, *Wilsonia pusilla*

Olive-green above and bright yellow beneath, with no streaks or wing bars. Male has a glossy black cap. Female may show traces of cap. Immatures are plain olive-green above and yellow beneath with no trace of a cap or wing bars. Length: 11.0 - 13.0 cm. (4.25 - 5.0 in.). Found in damp thickets. Nest: on the ground, often at the base of a shrub or stump, made of grasses, leaves and mosses, and lined with grasses and hair. Eggs: 4-5, white, spotted with reddish browns.

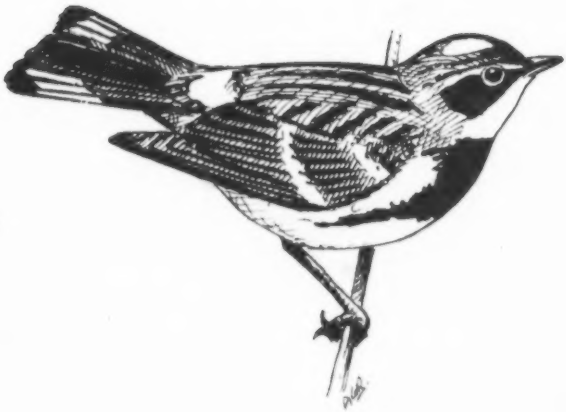
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER,
Dendroica virens

Male has conspicuous yellow cheek patch and black throat. Olive-green above; white belly and two white wing-bars. Black streaks on the flanks. Female is similar but the throat is mottled dark. Immatures have a yellowish-white throat. Note yellow cheek patch in all plumages. Length: 11.0 - 12.0 cm. (4.5 - 5.0 in.). Found in wooded areas. Nest: usually in a conifer, made of grasses and shredded bark, and lined with hair and feathers. Eggs: 4-5, white, spotted with reddish browns.



YELLOWTHROAT, *Geothlypis trichas*

Male is uniformly olive-green above, yellow fading to white on belly below. Wings and tail are greenish-brown; no wing-bars. Male has black face mask with white line above it. Female lacks the black mask. Chin, throat and breast are yellow, and belly is dull white. Length: 11.0 - 13.0 cm. (4.5 - 5.5 in.). Prefers scrub areas. Nest: on or near the ground, made of grasses, leaves and weed stalks, and lined with fine grasses and hair. Eggs: usually 4, white, marked with browns.

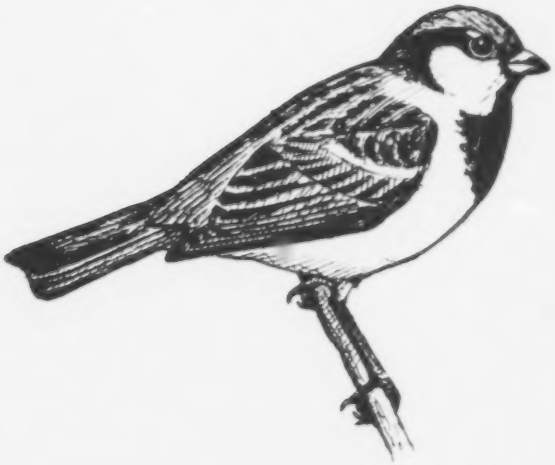


YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, *Dendroica coronata*

In all plumages there are four yellow spots — on crown, in front of each wing, and on rump. Male is bluish-gray streaked with black above, and white below. Black markings extend down the side. Two white wing-bars. Female is brown and similarly marked. Length: 12.0 - 15.0 cm. (5.0 - 6.0 in.). Found in coniferous woods. Formerly called Myrtle Warbler. Nest: in a conifer, cup-shaped and made of twigs, grass, rootlets and moss, and lined with hair and feathers. Eggs: 4-5, white spotted with browns.

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH,
Seiurus noveboracensis

The only warbler that teeters up and down like a Spotted Sandpiper. Uniformly olive-brown above; yellowish, heavily streaked with black below. Pale-yellow stripe over eye and no wing-bars. Length: 12.0 - 15.0 cm. (5.0 - 6.0 in.). Usually found feeding on the ground near water. Nest: on ground among the roots of upturned trees, or in a cavity in a bank, made of mosses, leaves, grasses and twigs, and lined with hair. Eggs: 4 or 5, white, spotted with brown.

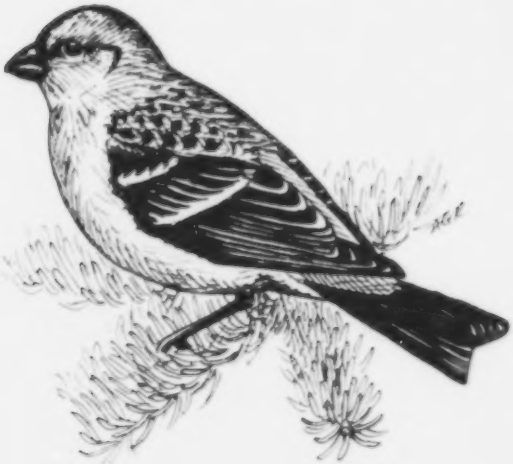


HOUSE SPARROW, *Passer domesticus*

The well-known "sparrow" around towns and villages. Male is brown above, grayish-white beneath. Black throat, gray crown, white cheek and chestnut stripe from eye to nape. Female lacks the black throat, is dull brown above and dingy white below. Pale eye-stripe. Length: 13.0 - 15.0 cm. (5.0 - 6.0 in.). Introduced from Europe. Common around settlements. Nest: in cavities of buildings, and among dense growths of trees, made of straw, feathers and other trash. Eggs: usually 5, white to bluish, spotted with grays and browns.

EVENING GROSBEAK, *Hesperiphona vespertina*

A chunky bird with short, notched tail and large conical beak. Male is yellow with large white wing patches. Tail and crown of head are black and most of head is dusky. Female is mostly grayish but with yellow on back of head, tail and sides. Flight is undulating. Length: 9.0 cm (7.5 in.). Sometimes common at feeders in winter; prefers sunflower seeds. Nest: in a tree, loosely made of twigs, rootlets, and bark, and lined with rootlets and fine twigs. Eggs: 3-5, bluish green with brown and gray spots.



PINE GROSBEAK, *Pinicola enucleator*

Male is mostly a dull rosy-red with black wings and tail. Two white wing-bars. Bill is blackish. Female is grayish, tinged with dull yellow on the head and rump. Immature male is similar to female but with a tinge of red on head and rump. Length: 20.0 cm. (8.0 in.). Tame. Often occurs in flocks. White-winged Crossbill is similar but is smaller and has crossed bill. Common in coniferous forests. Nest: in a conifer, cup-shaped, loosely made of twigs, rootlets, grasses and hair, and lined with fine rootlets, grasses and hair. Eggs: 4 or 5, greenish blue spotted with browns and greys.

PURPLE FINCH, *Carpodacus purpureus*

Male is rosy-red on head and rump, whitish on the belly. Back streaked. Two whitish wing-bars. Bill conical, rather heavy and dusky. Female is grayish-brown, streaked with dusky above, whitish and streaked with dusky below. Note dark patches on the cheek and the throat, and broad white stripe over the eye. Immatures are like females. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). Prefers coniferous forests. Nest: usually in a conifer, made of twigs, grasses and rootlets, and lined with fine grasses and hair. Eggs: 4-6, blue, with brown spots.

COMMON REDPOLL, *Acanthis flammea*

A streaked, gray-brown bird with a red cap and black chin. Two white wing-bars. Male has pink breast and rump. Female lacks the pink breast. Young birds lack the red cap and black chin. Crown has dusky and buff streaks. Resembles Pine Siskin but bill is conical, not slender. Also resembles Purple Finch, but no white stripe over eye. Length: 13.0 cm. (5.0 in.). Common in coniferous forests. Travels in flocks. Nest: on the ground or in a low bush, made of grasses and twigs, and lined with down, feathers and hair. Eggs: 5 or 6, blue dotted with reddish brown.

PINE SISKIN, *Spinus pinus*

A dark, heavily streaked finch with a deeply notched tail and slender sharp bill. Usually a touch of yellow in wings and at base of tail. Length: 11.0 cm. (4.5 in.). Female Purple Finch similar but larger; has dark patches on throat and white stripe over eye. Common in coniferous forests. Nest: in a conifer, cup-shaped and neatly made of twigs and bark, and lined with fine rootlets, hair or moss. Eggs: 3-6, pale blue, spotted with browns.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL, *Loxia leucoptera*

Crossbills have crossed mandibles, used for extracting seeds from evergreen cones.

This species has prominent white wing-bars. Male is rosy-red with black wings and tail. Female is olive-gray with a yellowish rump, and grayish wings and tail. Young birds are like female, except males are usually redder. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). Common locally in coniferous forests. Red Crossbill, *L. curvirostra*, is similar but lacks white wing-bars. Nest: in a conifer, made of twigs, grass, bark shreds and weeds, and lined with moss, grasses, hairs or feathers. Eggs: 3-4, bluish-green, spotted with browns.

SAVANNAH SPARROW, *Passerculus sandwichensis*

A small striped sparrow. Dark brownish with buff streaks above, white beneath with heavily streaked breast and flanks. Small central breast spot. Light stripe through the crown and yellowish line over the eye. Tail is notched. Length: 12.0 cm. (5.5 in.). Common in open areas — grassy fields, barrens and exposed coastal headlands. Nest: on the ground, made of grass and plant stems, and lined with fine grass. Eggs: usually 4, bluish-white, heavily blotched with browns.

Song Sparrow, *Melospiza melodia* is similar but has a rounded tail and lacks yellow line over eye.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, *Zonotrichia albicollis*

A largish sparrow. Brownish, streaked with dark brown above, gray beneath. Crown is striped black and white. Throat is white and there is a yellow spot in front of eye. Tail is forked. Immatures are browner with less distinct markings. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). Found in cutover and burned areas and where shrubbery is scattered. Nest: on the ground, coarsely made of grass, twigs, and rootlets, and lined with fine grasses, rootlets and hair. Eggs: usually 4, pale-bluish, speckled with browns.

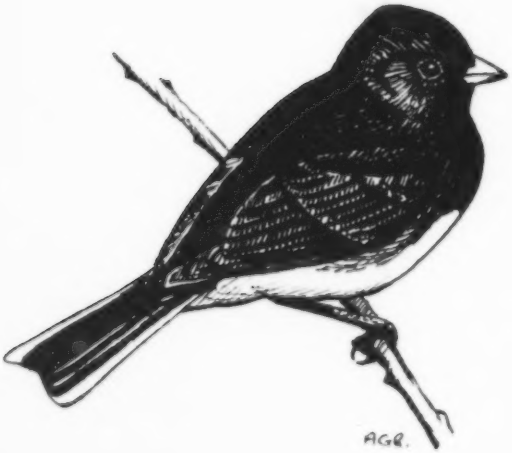
The similar White-Crowned Sparrow, *Z. leucophrys*, lacks the white throat and yellow in front of the eyes.

FOX SPARROW, *Passerella iliaca*

Our largest and most common sparrow. Rich rusty-brown and gray above; white and heavily streaked with reddish-brown below. Tail is a bright rufous-red. Breast more heavily streaked than any other sparrow. Length: 17.0 cm. (7.0 in.). Found in thickets, underbrush and forests. Nest: on the ground or in a tree, cup-shaped, made of grass, twigs, moss and rootlets, and lined with grass, hair and feathers. Eggs: 3-4, bluish or greenish, spotted with reddish brown.

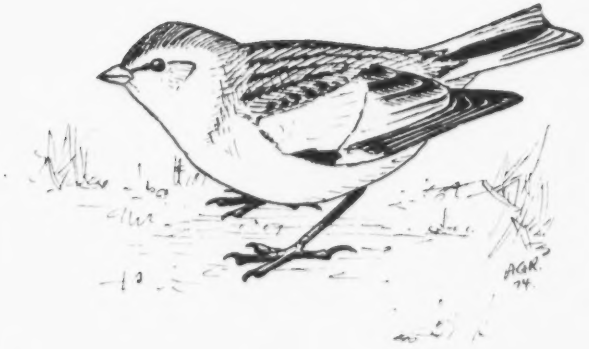
SWAMP SPARROW, *Melospiza georgiana*

A dark sparrow; reddish-brown streaked with black above, grayish to white below. Reddish crown, rusty wings, white throat, a dark line through the eye and a light one above it. No wing-bars. Length: 12.0 cm. (5.0 in.). Found in fens, and swampy areas. Nest: on the ground or in a low bush, made of coarse grasses and lined with fine grasses. Eggs: 4 or 5, bluish-white speckled with browns.



DARK-EYED JUNCO, *Junco hyemalis*

Our only sparrow with slate-gray upperparts and white belly. Note also the white outer tail feathers. Bill is whitish. Female and young are lighter gray to brownish above. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). Occurs in flocks in winter. Found in scrub and open mixed woods. Formerly called the Slate-colored Junco. Nest: on the ground, made of rootlets, grasses and moss, and lined with fine grasses and hairs. Eggs: 4-5, whitish speckled with browns.



SNOW BUNTING, *Plectrophenax nivalis*

In winter plumage, male is mostly white and brown with large white wing patches. Female is browner than male. In flight, appears white below and brown above. The large white wing patches are distinctive in all plumages. Length: 15.0 cm. (6.0 in.). An Arctic bird, arriving here in fall and leaving in spring. Commonly called "Snow-birds". Nest: on the ground or among rocks, made of mosses and grasses, and lined with grasses, feathers and hair. Eggs: 4-7, whitish spotted with browns. Breeds in the Arctic.

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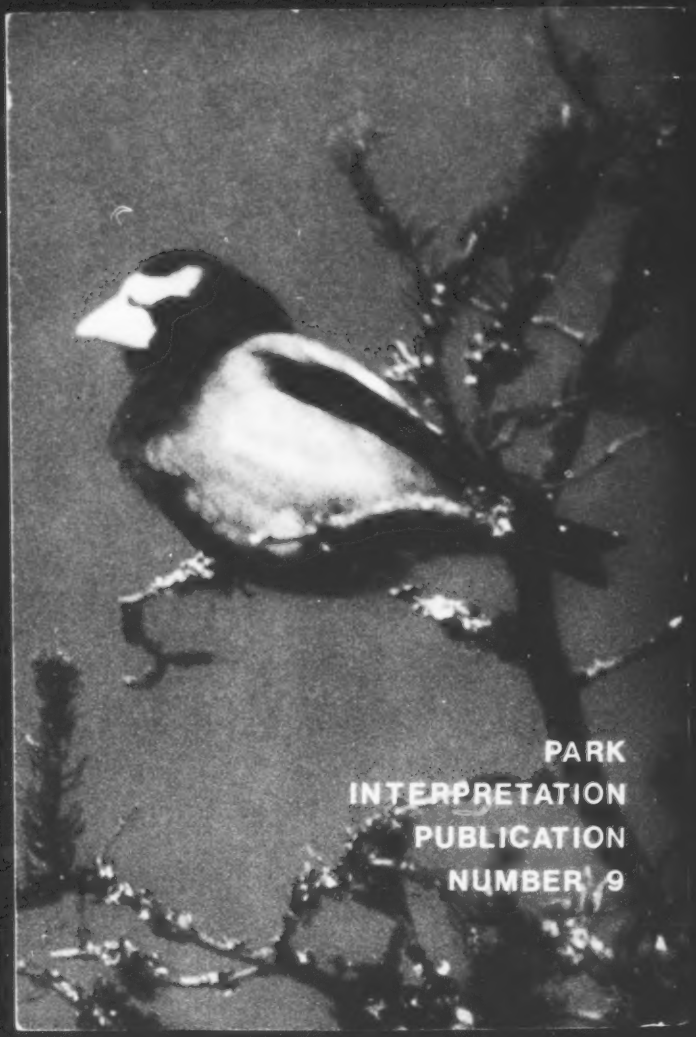

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